

**Amendments to the claims:**

1. **Claim 1** (Currently amended): A method of reinforcing a cylindrical pipeline wherein prestressing reinforcements are placed and tensioned around the pipeline, wherein, in a zone where the pipeline has a radial projection on a first side, the prestressing reinforcements are deflected to bypass the radial projection, and wherein reinforcements located in a common layer on a second side of the pipeline opposite the first side are distributed in a plurality of layers on the first side, wherein the deflection of the reinforcements around the radial projection is obtained by means of at least one prefabricated plate having an orifice providing a passage for the radial projection and channels for guiding the reinforcements.
2. **Claim 2** (Canceled)
3. **Claim 3** (Currently amended): The method as claimed in Claim 1 2, wherein the channels for guiding the reinforcements are in the form of grooves open onto an upper face of the prefabricated plate.
4. **Claim 4** (Original): The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the grooves are arranged for receiving reinforcements individually along two edges of the prefabricated plate located on either side of a mid-plane containing a longitudinal direction of the pipeline and a direction of the radial projection, and wherein the

grooves merge at least in pairs in a cross-section along said mid-plane, so as to provide the plurality of reinforcements received in a merged groove with a plurality of bearing surfaces located in different layers perpendicularly to the plate.

5. **Claim 5** (Currently amended): The method as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising guiding the reinforcements at the entrance to the prefabricated plate so as to prevent the reinforcements from having angular points at the edge of the plate.
6. **Claim 6** (Currently amended): The method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the prefabricated plate is laid onto the pipeline with a gap filled by a positioning mortar.
7. **Claim 7** (Currently amended): The method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the prefabricated plate is made from cast iron.
8. **Claim 8** (Currently amended): The method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the prefabricated plate is made from poured concrete.
9. **Claim 9** (Canceled)

10. **Claim 10** (Currently amended): ~~The~~ A method of reinforcing a cylindrical pipeline, wherein prestressing reinforcements are placed and tensioned around the pipeline, wherein in a zone where the pipeline has a radial projection on a first side, the prestressing reinforcements are deflected to bypass the radial projection, and wherein reinforcements located in a common layer on a second side of the pipeline opposite the first side are distributed in a plurality of layers on the first side,~~as claimed in Claim 1, further~~ the method comprising the following steps prior to tensioning the prestressing reinforcements:

- placing a formwork in said zone of the pipeline on the first side;
- positioning spacing means within said formwork to define paths in the plurality of layers for the reinforcements; and
- pouring concrete into the formwork,

the reinforcements being tensioned after the poured concrete has set

11. **Claim 11** (Original): The method as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising the step of arranging individual tubes in the formwork, each tube receiving a respective prestressing reinforcement.

12. **Claim 12** (Currently amended): Method of reinforcing a cylindrical pipeline, wherein prestressing members are installed and tensioned around the pipeline, the method comprising the steps of:

- selecting a section of the pipeline to receive a radial projection on a first side of the pipeline; and
- deflecting the prestressing members by means of at least one prefabricated plate having an orifice providing a passage for the radial projection and channels for guiding the prestressing members, to guide said members off a position of the radial projection so that the prestressing members located in a common layer on a second side of the pipe opposed to the first side are distributed into a plurality of layers on the first side.

13. **Claim 13** (Canceled)

14. **Claim 14** (Currently amended): The method as claimed in Claim ~~12~~<sup>13</sup>, wherein the channels for guiding the prestressing members are in the form of grooves open onto an upper face of the prefabricated plate.

15. **Claim 15** (Original): The method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the grooves are arranged for receiving prestressing members individually along two edges of the prefabricated plate located on either side of a mid-plane containing a

longitudinal direction of the pipeline and a direction of the radial projection, and wherein the grooves merge at least in pairs in a cross-section along said mid-plane, so as to provide the plurality of prestressing members received in a merged groove with a plurality of bearing surfaces located in different layers perpendicularly to the plate.

16. **Claim 16** (Currently amended): The method as claimed in Claim 12~~13~~, further comprising guiding the prestressing members at the entrance to the prefabricated plate so as to prevent the prestressing members from having angular points at the edge of the plate.
17. **Claim 17** (Currently amended): The method as claimed in Claim 12~~13~~, wherein the prefabricated plate is laid onto the pipeline with a gap filled by a positioning mortar.
18. **Claim 18** (Currently amended): The method as claimed in Claim 12~~13~~, wherein the prefabricated plate is made from cast iron.
19. **Claim 19** (Currently amended): The method as claimed in Claim 12~~13~~, wherein the prefabricated plate is made from poured concrete.

20. **Claim 20** (Original): The method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the poured concrete has a compressive strength greater than 120 MPa.

21. **Claim 21** (Currently amended): ~~The A method as claimed in Claim 12 of~~  
reinforcing a cylindrical pipeline, wherein prestressing members are installed and  
tensioned around the pipeline, the method comprising the steps of:

- selecting a section of the pipeline to receive a radial projection on a first  
side of the pipeline; and
- deflecting the prestressing members to guide said members off a position  
of the radial projection so that the prestressing members located in a  
common layer on a second side of the pipe opposed to the first side are  
distributed into a plurality of layers on the first side.,

the method further comprising the following steps prior to tensioning the prestressing members:

- placing a formwork in said section of the pipeline on the first side;
- positioning spacing means within said formwork to define paths in the plurality of layers for the prestressing members; and
- pouring concrete into the formwork,

the prestressing members being tensioned after the poured concrete has set

22. **Claim 22** (Original): The method as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising the step of arranging individual tubes in the formwork, each tube receiving a respective prestressing member.
23. **Claim 23** (Original): Prefabricated plate having an orifice to be placed around a radial projection on a first side of a cylindrical pipeline, and channels for guiding prestressing members for said pipeline, the channels having a shape adapted to deflect the prestressing members in order to guide said members off a position of the radial projection so that the prestressing members located in a common layer on a second side of the pipe opposed to the first side are distributed into a plurality of layers on the first side.
24. **Claim 24** (Original): The prefabricated plate as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the channels for guiding the prestressing members are in the form of grooves open onto an upper face of the prefabricated plate.
25. **Claim 25** (Canceled)
26. **Claim 26** (Currently amended): The prefabricated plate as claimed in Claim ~~24~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the grooves are arranged for receiving prestressing members individually along two edges of the prefabricated plate located on either side of a

mid-plane containing a longitudinal direction of the pipeline and a direction of the radial projection, and wherein the grooves merge at least in pairs in a cross-section along said mid-plane, so as to provide the plurality of prestressing members received in a merged groove with a plurality of bearing surfaces located in different layers perpendicularly to the plate.

- 27. **Claim 27** (Original): The prefabricated plate as claimed in Claim 23, made from cast iron.
- 28. **Claim 28** (Original): The prefabricated plate as claimed in Claim 23, made from poured concrete.
- 29. **Claim 29** (Original): The prefabricated plate as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the poured concrete has a compressive strength greater than 120 MPa.